Appendix IV. Accessing the Monthly SS/SSI Reports

The TASS Online System allows users to access Benefit History and Income Discrepancy Reports generated from the monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income match conducted by TASS for households due for re-certification in the next four months. The system also identifies the tenants for whom SSA was unable to provide benefit information and the reason for the missing information.

The **Benefit History Report** shows the current level of benefits and a history (up to the last 8 changes) for each family member. The Benefit History Reports include benefits information for all household members due for re-certification in the indicated month for whom SSA provided benefit information.

The **Income Discrepancy Report** is generated for households due for re-certification and having a discrepancy between the monthly SS/SSI benefit amount reported by SSA and that reported by the household. The household is considered discrepant if the combined tenant-reported amount for all household members differs from the SSA-reported amount by \$50 or more.

The **Error Report** provides information on family members in a household due for recertification for whom SSA was unable to provide benefit information and the issues encountered by SSA in resolving the tenant information or providing the benefits data.

The reports that are available to the user are determined by the POAs that have been assigned to the user by the Secure Systems Coordinator. A PHA user may search for and view reports by two criteria: PHA or Household. An O/A user may search for and view reports by three criteria: Household, FHA Project Number or FHA Contract Number.

Sections A, B, C, and D of this Appendix describe how to search for the monthly reports by household, PHA, FHA Contract Number, and FHA Project Number respectively. Section E describes how to access the detailed Benefit History and Income Discrepancy reports generated in the search results.



A. Accessing Monthly Reports by Household

TASS allows the user to request tenant benefit records for a specific household using the Head of Household's (HoH) Social Security Number (SSN). A search by HoH SSN will yield, at most, one record because the SSN identifies only one specific household. Use the following steps to search by household:

 Click the by household link under the Benefit History Reports section of the system menu.



Figure 9. TASS Home Page



POAs may not view the tenant data without a signed Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice (Forms HUD-9886, HUD-9887, or HUD-9887A) in the household's file for the head of household and spouse or co-head, regardless of age, and each adult member in the household.

2. The **Monthly Reports by Household** screen is displayed as shown below.



Figure 10. Monthly Reports by Household Search Screen

- 3. To specify the household for which you want to access the benefit records:
 - Enter the **HoH SSN** in the text box. (Do not include dashes in the SSN.)
 - Select a PHA from the drop-down list of authorized PHAs
 - Click the Go link



Instead of a list of PHAs, an O/A user would be presented with drop-down lists of the Project and/or Contract Numbers they are authorized to access.

If a PHA, Project, or Contract that you need to access does not appear in the drop-down list of authorized PHAs/Projects/Contracts, you should contact the Secure Systems Coordinator of your POA, who is able to grant you the necessary rights.

4. The **Household Income Summary** for the household is displayed as shown below.



Figure 11. Household Income Summary Screen

The screen shows the following summary benefit amounts for each family member:

- Gross and Net Monthly Social Security (SS)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—including Federal and State
- Dual Entitlement (DE)
- Combined (SS, SSI, and DE) Gross and Net
- 5. Click on the **View Benefit History** link to view the detailed Benefit History Report(s) for the household members. The Benefit History Report(s) for the household are displayed as shown below. The reports describe the Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, Dual Entitlement, and Black Lung benefits being received by the tenant. It also provides a history of past benefit amounts.

The reports are sorted by Member Number. Scroll down the page to view the individual reports for each family member. A sample Benefit History Report is shown in Appendices V (PHA) and VI (O/A). Appendix VII contains a description of the data shown on the report.

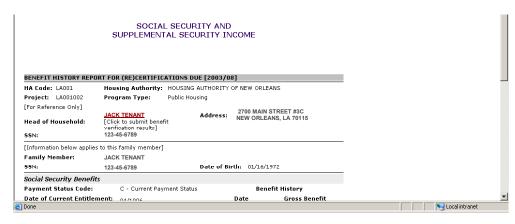


Figure 12. Benefit History Report Screen

6. If an Income Discrepancy Report has been generated for the household, the screen will display a link to the report as shown below.



Figure 13. Household Income Summary screen with Income Discrepancy Report link

7. Click on the View Income Discrepancy link to view the detailed Income Discrepancy Report for the household. The Income Discrepancy Report for the household is displayed as shown below. The report details the tenant-reported benefit amount, the SSA-reported benefit amount, and the difference in the amounts for each family member and for the combined household.

A sample Income Discrepancy Report is shown in Appendices VIII (PHAs) and IX (O/As). Appendix X contains a description of the data shown on the report.



Figure 14. Income Discrepancy Report Screen

8. If there is no household in the selected PHA, Project, or Contract with a Head of Household SSN that matches the one entered by the user, the screen will display a message as shown below.

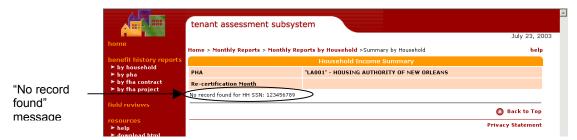


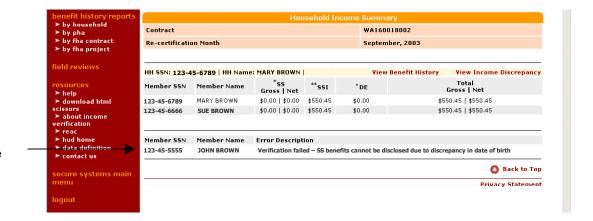
Figure 15. "No Record Found" Screen

Verify that you correctly entered the Head of Household SSN, selected the appropriate PHA, Project, or Contract and that the household is due for re-certification within the next four months.



There may be no Benefit History Reports available for a household or a family member because of the following reasons:

- A HUD Form 50058/50059 was not submitted to HUD by the POA
- The Form 50058/50059 data contained mismatched identifiers for the tenant so the SSA could not provide benefit information
- The Household is not due for re-certification in any of the months for which benefit data is provided online
- The Household does not fall under the jurisdiction of the selected PHA, Project, or Contract
- 9. If the SSA was unable to provide benefit information for a family member, the screen will display a message as shown below. Appendix XI provides a complete listing of the error messages that may be generated and displayed by the system.



"Error" message

Figure 16. Household Income Summary screen with Error Report



B. Accessing Monthly Reports by PHA

A search by PHA and Recertification Month will yield records for all the households under the PHA's jurisdiction that are due for re-certification in the specified month. Use the following steps to search by PHA and Re-certification Month:

1. Click the by pha link under the Benefit History Reports section of the system menu.

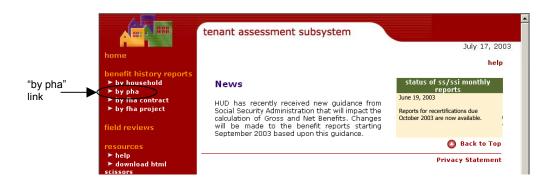


Figure 17. TASS Home Page



If you get a message indicating that no PHA is assigned to you, you should contact the Secure Systems Coordinator of your PHA, who is able to grant you the necessary rights.

2. The **Monthly Reports by PHA** search screen is displayed as shown below.

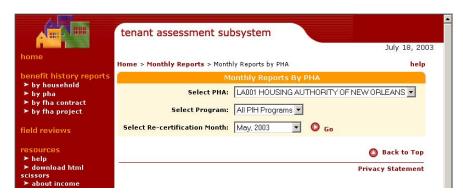


Figure 18. Monthly Reports by PHA Search Screen

The **Select PHA** drop-down list is populated with the PHA(s) that you are authorized to access.

The **Select Program** drop-down list allows you to access reports for households participating in all PIH programs or to narrow your search to households participating in Public Housing or Section 8 programs.

The **Select Re-certification Month** drop-down list allows you to choose to view reports for households due for re-certification in the current month or in one of the four ensuing months.

- 3. To specify the group of households for which you want to access benefit records:
 - Select a PHA from the list of authorized PHAs
 - Select a specific category of rental assistance program or the default option "All PIH Programs"
 - Select the desired Re-certification Month
 - Click the Go link
- 4. The search results are displayed in the lower half of the screen—the **Monthly Reports Summary** as shown below.

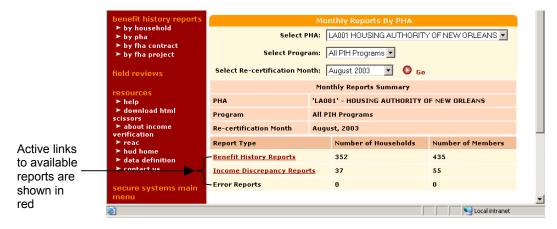


Figure 19. Monthly Reports by PHA Summary screen

The summary shows the number of households and family members for whom Benefit History, Income Discrepancy, and Error Reports are available for the user-defined search criteria.

If there are no households included in the search results for a report type, the report name is displayed with "0" in the Number of Households and Number of Family Members columns



If at least one household is included in the search results for a report type, the report name becomes an active link that allows you to view the summary information for all the included households.

B-1 Benefit History Reports

To view the summary benefit information, click the **Benefit History Reports** link. The **Benefit Summary by PHA** screen is displayed as shown below.

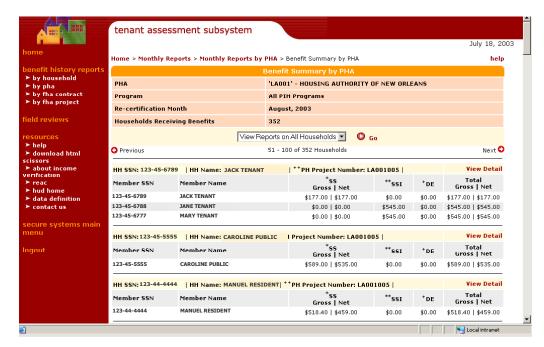


Figure 20. Benefit Summary by PHA screen

The search results are displayed as summaries of the Benefit History Reports for the family member(s) in each household. The screen shows the following benefit amount information for each family member:

- Gross and Net Monthly Social Security (SS)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—including Federal and State
- Dual Entitlement (DE)
- Combined (SS, SSI, and DE) Gross and Net

The results are sorted by Program Type and Head of Household SSN.

A maximum of 50 summaries are displayed on the screen. Where there are more than 50 reports in the search results, the screen has **Next** and **Previous** navigation buttons to allow you to access the next or previous set of reports.

2. The Benefit Summary by PHA screen provides three options for accessing the detailed Benefit History Reports. These options are described in Section E.

B-2 Income Discrepancy Reports

 To view the summary income discrepancy information, click the Income Discrepancy Reports link.

The **Discrepancy Summary by PHA** screen is displayed as shown below.



Figure 21. Income Discrepancy Summary by PHA screen

The search results are displayed as summaries of the Income Discrepancy Reports for each family member. The screen shows the following information for each family member:

- Total Benefits Reported to HUD by the Tenant
- Total Benefits Reported to HUD by the SSA

The results are sorted by Program Type and Head of Household SSN.

A maximum of 50 summaries are displayed on the screen. Where there are more than 50 reports in the search results, the screen has **Next** and **Previous** navigation buttons to allow you to access the next or previous set of reports.

2. The Discrepancy Summary by PHA screen provides three options for accessing the detailed Income Discrepancy Reports. These options are described in Section E.

B-3 Error Reports

1. To view the list of tenants for whom TASS was unable to provide benefit information and the reason for the missing information, click the **Error Reports** link.

The **Error Report** screen is displayed as shown below.

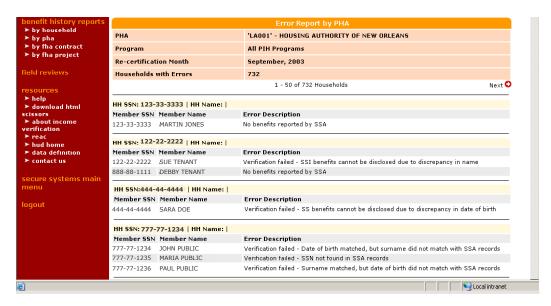


Figure 22. Error Reports screen

The results are sorted by Program Type and Head of Household SSN.

- 2. The SSA may not be able to provide benefit information for a tenant for various reasons including the following:
 - The tenant's SSN could not be verified—the SSN/date of birth/surname combination does not match SSA records.
 - The tenant's SSN was verified but the tenant does not currently receive benefits and has never received benefits in the past.
- 3. Appendix XI provides a complete listing of the error messages that may be generated and displayed by the system.

C. Accessing Monthly Reports by FHA Contract Number

A search by FHA Contract Number and Recertification Month will yield records for all the households under the O/A's jurisdiction that are due for re-certification in the specified month. Use the following steps to search by FHA Contract Number and Re-certification Month:

1. Click the by fha contract link under the Benefit History Reports section of the system menu.

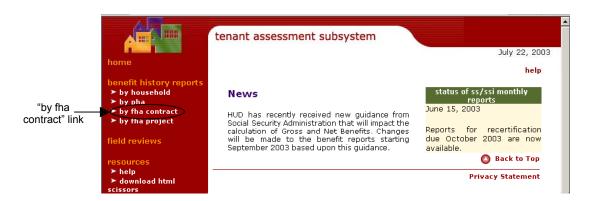


Figure 23. TASS Home Page



If you get a message indicating that no contract numbers are assigned to you, contact the Secure Systems Coordinator of your organization who is able to provide you with the necessary rights.

2. The **Monthly Reports by Contract** screen is displayed as shown below.



Figure 24. Monthly Reports by Contract Search Screen

The **Select One or More Contracts** drop-down list is populated with the contract(s) that you are authorized to access.

The **Select Re-certification Month** drop-down list allows you to choose reports for households due for re-certification in the current month or in one of the four ensuing months.



If you do not see the contract number for a particular property you own or manage, you should contact the Secure Systems Coordinator of your organization.

- 3. To specify the group of households for which you want to access benefit records:
 - Select one or more **Contract Numbers** from the list of authorized contracts
 - Select the desired Re-certification Month
 - Click the Go link



You may choose multiple, consecutive contract numbers in the list by holding down the **Shift** key on your keyboard and selecting the required contract numbers by dragging the mouse through the list or using your **Up** or **Down arrows**. You may select multiple, nonconsecutive contract numbers by holding down the **Ctrl** key as you make the selections.

4. The search results are displayed in the lower half of the screen—the **Monthly Reports Summary** as shown below.



Figure 25. Monthly Reports by Contract Summary Screen

The summary shows the number of households and family members for whom Benefit History, Income Discrepancy, and Error Reports are available for the specified contract number(s) and re-certification month.

If there are no households included in the search results for a report type, the report name is displayed with "0" in the Number of Households and Number of Family Members columns

If at least one household is included in the search results for a report type, the report name becomes an active link that allows you to view the summary information for all the included households.

C-1 Benefit History Reports

 To view the summary benefit information, click the Benefit History Reports link under the Report Type column.

The Benefit Summary by Contract screen is displayed as shown below.



Figure 26.Benefit Summary by Contract Screen

The search results are displayed as summaries of the Benefit History Reports for the family member(s) in each household. The screen shows the following benefit amount information for each family member:

- Gross and Net Monthly Social Security (SS)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—including Federal and State
- Dual Entitlement (DE)
- Combined (SS, SSI, and DE) Gross and Net



The summaries are sorted by Contract Number and Head of Household SSN.

A maximum of 50 summaries are displayed on the screen. Where there are more than 50 reports in the search results, the screen has **Next** and **Previous** navigation buttons to allow you to access the next or previous set of reports.

2. The Benefit Summary by Contract screen provides three options for accessing the detailed Benefit History Reports. These options are described in Section E.

C-2 Income Discrepancy Reports

1. To view the summary income discrepancy information, click the **Income Discrepancy Reports** link.

The **Discrepancy Summary by Contract** screen is displayed as shown below.

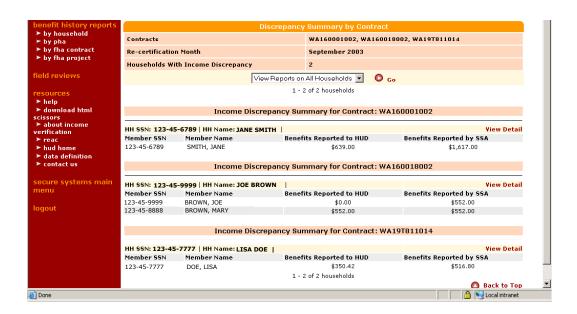


Figure 27. Income Discrepancy Summary by Contract screen

The search results are displayed as summaries of the Income Discrepancy Reports for each family member. The screen shows the following information for each family member:

- Total Benefits Reported to HUD by the Tenant
- Total Benefits Reported to HUD by the SSA

The results are sorted by Contract Number and Head of Household SSN.

A maximum of 50 summaries are displayed on the screen. Where there are more than 50 reports in the search results, the screen has **Next** and **Previous** navigation buttons to allow you to access the next or previous set of reports.

2. The Discrepancy Summary by Contract screen provides three options for accessing the detailed Income Discrepancy Reports. These options are described in Section E.

C-3 Error Reports

1. To view the list of tenants for whom TASS was unable to provide benefit information and the reason for the missing information, click the **Error Reports** link.

The **Error Report** screen is displayed as shown below.



Figure 28. Error Report by Contract screen

The results are sorted by Contract Number and Head of Household SSN.

- 2. The SSA may not be able to provide benefit information for a tenant for various reasons including the following:
 - The tenant's SSN could not be verified—the SSN/date of birth/surname combination does not match SSA records.
 - The tenant's SSN was verified but the tenant does not currently receive benefits and has never received benefits in the past.
- 3. Appendix XI provides a complete listing of the error messages that may be generated and displayed by the system.

D. Accessing Monthly Reports by FHA Project Number

A search by FHA Project Number and Recertification Month will yield records for all the households under the O/A's jurisdiction that are due for re-certification in the specified month. Use the following steps to search by FHA Project Number and Re-certification Month:

1. Click the **by fha project** link under the **Benefit History reports** section of the system menu.



Figure 29. TASS Home Page



If you get a message indicating that no projects are assigned to you, contact the Secure Systems Coordinator of your organization who is able to provide you with the necessary rights.

2. The **Monthly Reports by Project** screen is displayed as shown below.

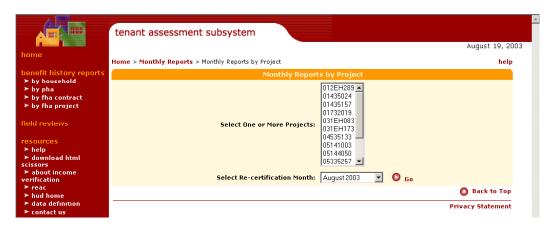


Figure 30. Monthly Reports by Project Search Screen

The **Select One or More Projects** drop-down list is populated with the project(s) that you are authorized to access.

The **Select Re-certification Month** drop-down list allows you to choose reports for households due for re-certification in the current month or in one of the four ensuing months.



If you do not see the project number for a particular property you own or manage, you should contact the Secure Systems Coordinator of your organization.

- 3. To specify the group of households for which you want to access benefit records:
 - Select one or more Project Numbers from the list of authorized projects
 - Select the desired Re-certification Month
 - Click the Go link



You may choose multiple, consecutive project numbers in the list by holding down the **Shift** key on your computer keyboard and selecting the required project numbers by dragging the mouse through the list or using your **Up** or **Down arrows.** You may select multiple, nonconsecutive project numbers by holding down the **Ctrl** key as you make the selections.

4. The search results are displayed in the lower half of the screen—the **Monthly Reports Summary** as shown below.

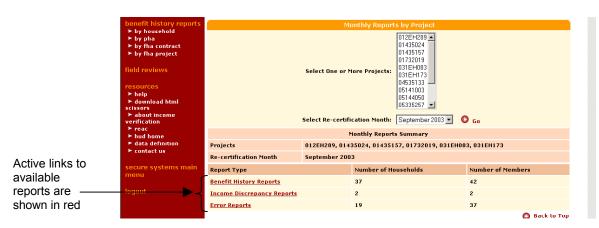


Figure 31. Monthly Reports by Project Summary Screen

The summary shows the number of households and family members for whom Benefit History, Income Discrepancy, and Error Reports are available for the specified project number(s) and re-certification month.

If there are no households included in the search results for a report type, the report name is displayed with "0" in the Number of Households and Number of Family Members columns

If at least one household is included in the search results for a report type, the report name becomes an active link that allows you to view the summary information for all the included households.

D-1 Benefit History Reports

1. To view the summary benefit information, click the **Benefit History Reports** link under the **Report Type** column.

The Benefit Summary by Project screen is displayed as shown below.

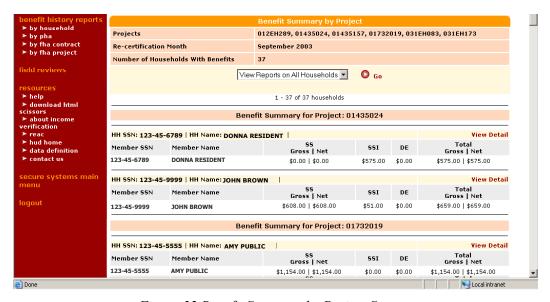


Figure 32.Benefit Summary by Project Screen

The search results are displayed as summaries of the Benefit History Reports for the family member(s) in each household. The screen shows the following benefit amount information for each family member:

- Gross and Net Monthly Social Security (SS)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—including Federal and State
- Dual Entitlement (DE)
- Combined (SS, SSI, and DE) Gross and Net



The summaries are sorted by Project Number and Head of Household SSN.

A maximum of 50 summaries are displayed on the screen. Where there are more than 50 reports in the search results, the screen has **Next** and **Previous** navigation buttons to allow you to access the next or previous set of reports.

2. The Benefit Summary by Project screen provides three options for accessing the detailed Benefit History Reports. These options are described in Section E.

D-2 Income Discrepancy Reports

1. To view the summary income discrepancy information, click the **Income Discrepancy Reports** link.

The **Discrepancy Summary by Project** screen is displayed as shown below.

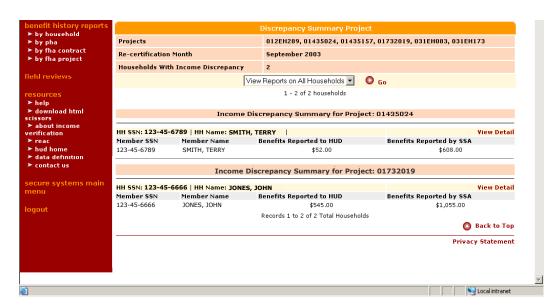


Figure 33. Income Discrepancy Summary by Project screen

The search results are displayed as summaries of the Income Discrepancy Reports for each family member. The screen shows the following information for each family member:

- Total Benefits Reported to HUD by the Tenant
- Total Benefits Reported to HUD by the SSA

The results are sorted by Project Number and Head of Household SSN.

A maximum of 50 summaries are displayed on the screen. Where there are more than 50 reports in the search results, the screen has **Next** and **Previous** navigation buttons to allow you to access the next or previous set of reports.

2. The Discrepancy Summary by Project screen provides three options for accessing the detailed Income Discrepancy Reports. These options are described in Section E.

D-3 Error Reports

1. To view the list of tenants for whom TASS was unable to provide benefit information and the reason for the missing information, click the **Error Reports** link.

The Error Report screen is displayed as shown below.

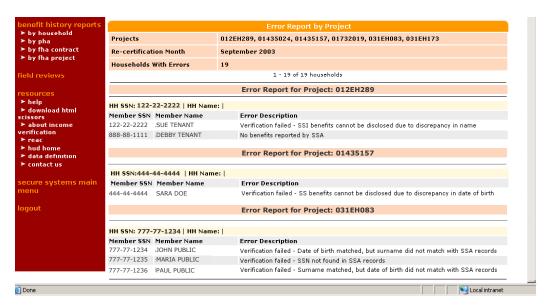


Figure 34. Error Reports screen

The results are sorted by Project Number and Head of Household SSN.

- 2. The SSA may not be able to provide benefit information for a tenant for various reasons including the following:
 - The tenant's SSN could not be verified—the SSN/date of birth/surname combination does not match SSA records.
 - The tenant's SSN was verified but the tenant does not currently receive benefits and has never received benefits in the past.
- 3. Appendix XI provides a complete listing of the error messages that may be generated and displayed by the system.

E. Viewing the Detailed Reports

The Benefit Summary and Discrepancy Summary screens provide three options for accessing the detailed Benefit History and Income Discrepancy Reports:

1. To view the detailed report for a specific household, click the **View Detail** link in the summary page (Benefit Summary by PHA, Contract, or Project; Discrepancy Summary by PHA, Contract, or Project).

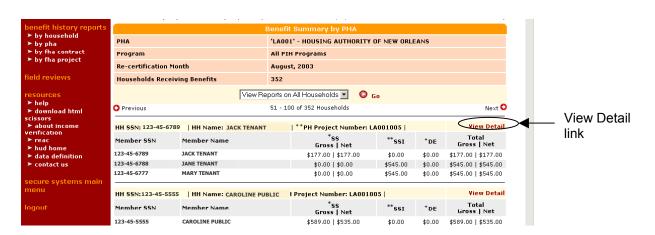


Figure 35. Benefit Summary by PHA screen

a. For Benefit History Reports, this displays the detailed Benefit History Report(s) for all members of the household, where available. The reports describe the Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, Dual Entitlement, and Black Lung benefits being received by the tenant. It also provides a history of past benefit amounts.

The Benefit History Report page is shown below. The reports are sorted by Member Number with the Head of Household's report being the first on the page. Scroll down the page to view the individual reports for each family member. You may print the household's reports or save the report file to a local computer hard drive or diskette for later viewing and printing.

A sample Benefit History Report is shown in Appendices V (for PHAs) and VI (for O/As). Appendix VII contains a description of the data shown on the report.

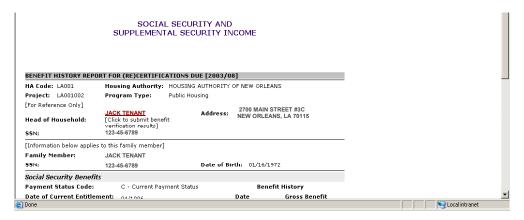


Figure 36. Benefit History Report Screen

b. For Income Discrepancy Reports, this displays the detailed report for the household as shown below. The report details the tenant-reported benefit amount, the SSA-reported benefit amount, and the difference in the amounts for each family member and for the combined household. You may print the household's report or save the report file to a local computer hard drive or diskette for later viewing and printing.

A sample Income Discrepancy Report is shown in Appendices VIII (for PHAs) and IX (for O/As). Appendix X contains a description of the data shown on the report.

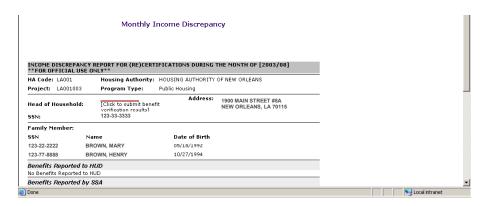


Figure 37. Income Discrepancy Report Screen





You should be aware that once a report is saved to your local diskette or hard drive, it is no longer in HUD's secure environment. You must take precautions to prevent access to the reports by unauthorized individuals.

To view the detailed reports for all households in the result set, select the View **Reports on All Households** option in the drop-down list and click the **Go** link. The reports are presented in groups of 50 with navigation buttons for viewing the next and previous set of reports. You may print or save the reports.

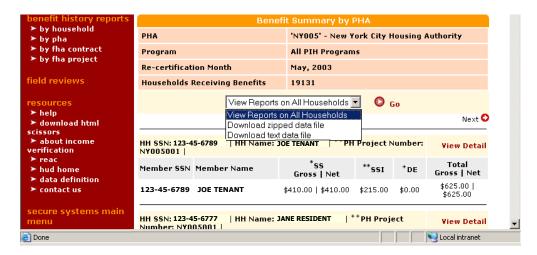


Figure 38. Summary Screen Showing Options for Viewing Report Details

To download the SS/SSI benefits data, select the **Download SS/SSI Benefits** zipped data file or the Download SS/SSI Benefits text data file option from the drop-down list and click the Go link. These download options are particularly useful for PHAs with a large volume of tenant reports or who wish to load the data into another program such as Microsoft Access. The zipped data file (compressed format) greatly reduces the size of large files and reduces the download time. The time it takes to download the files will depend on the speed of your Internet connection. See Appendix XII for directions for downloading the data files.







The data files that may be downloaded from the TASS online system are in tabdelimited format. That is, a tab character separates each field. Each record is delimited by a new-line. The **Data Definition** link under the **Resources** caption of the TASS web page provides the user with a description of the data files for each report type. The link allows the user to access a listing of the field names, type, and size and a brief description of each field in the Benefit History and Income Discrepancy reports. The fields are listed in the order they are written to the downloadable files.